

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086299

EXDIS HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: LUNS BRIEFING ON US TRIP

REF: USNATO 2220, DTG 151743 Z APRIL 77

1. FOR ALL NATO EMBASSIES: YOU SHOULD INFORM FOREIGN
MINISTRIES AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL THAT, AS THEY ARE
PROBABLY ALREADY AWARE, PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS ARE
IN PROGRESS IN WASHINGTON WITH THEIR EMBASSIES ON AN
INFORMAL AND TENTATIVE BASIS ON POSSIBLE US APPROACH TO
THE MAY NATO MEETING IN LONDON. WE HAVE MADE NO DECISIONS
ON THE APPROACH WE MAY ULTIMATELY TAKE, AND ARE AWAITING
EARLY REACTIONS OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS. GIVEN THE
TENTATIVE STATE OF OUR OWN THINKING, AND OUR DESIRE TO
RECEIVE ALLIED REACTIONS DIRECTLY AND INFORMALLY, WE
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PAGE 02 STATE 086299

HAVE WANTED TO CONDUCT THESE INITIAL CONSULTATIONS
BILATERALLY IN WASHINGTON, WHERE WORK ON US APPROACH IS
PROCEEDING AND WHERE DECISION WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE TO BE
TAKEN ON WHAT PRESIDENT WILL SAY.

2. NOTING THAT LUNS AND SOME PERMREPS HAD EXPRESSED A
DESIRE FOR EARLY DISCUSSIONS IN THE COUNCIL OF US

APPROACH (REFTEL), EMBASSIES SHOULD EXPLAIN TO HOST GOVERNMENTS OUR DESIRE TO COMPLETE ROUND OF DIRECT INFORMAL BILATERAL EXCHANGES PRIOR TO DISCUSSION IN BRUSSELS. WE BELIEVE PROCESS OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS OFFERS THE BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR ALLIES TO MAKE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN AT THIS STAGE. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE WILL WANT TO HAVE BROADER DISCUSSION IN NATO. WE HOPE FOREIGN MINISTRIES WILL APPRECIATE THESE POINTS, AND SO INFORM THEIR PERMREPS. FYI. CONSULTATIONS WITH UK, FRENCH, FRG, ITALIAN AND CANADIAN EMBASSIES WERE HELD APRIL 14-15. ALL OTHER NATO EMBASSIES WILL BE CONSULTED APRIL 18 AND 19. WE ARE SENDING SEPTTEL, FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, TEXT OF SPEAKING NOTES USED IN WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS. END FYI.

3. FOR USNATO: MISSION SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE US APPROACH BY PERMREPS AT THIS TIME, SINCE, AS NOTED ABOVE, OUR OWN THINKING IS STILL TENTATIVE AND WE ARE AWAITING DIRECT REACTION OF ALLIED GOVERNMENTS. ONCE THIS ROUND OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS HAS BEEN COMPLETED, WE WILL WANT TO HAVE INFORMAL DISCUSSION AT NATO.

CHRISTOPHER

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